

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2-7 have been amended. New claim 17 has been added.

This amendment adds, changes and deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-17 are now pending in this application.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants filed an Information Disclosure Statement on July 21, 2003 with accompanying Form PTO/SB/08 listing a number of documents along with copies of the listed documents. Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Allowable subject matter

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 2-6 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 2-6 have been amended to be in independent form, and are thus in *prima facie* condition for allowance. Claims 11-16 depend from either claim 2 or claim 3, and are thus likewise in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejection - 35 USC §103

Claims 1 and 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over JP 07-294706 ("JP '706"). This rejection is moot with respect to claim 1, which has been

canceled. With respect to claims 7-10, applicants respectfully traverse for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 7 is directed to an optical fiber having an antireflection film formed on the end surface, the antireflection surface being formed by dipping. JP '706 fails to suggest such an optical fiber. JP '706 discloses a plastic plate 2 coated with a protective film, not an optical fiber with a film formed on its end surface.

Moreover, the Office Action provides no motivation for modifying the JP '706 disclosure to produce an optical fiber having an antireflection film formed on the end surface. As mentioned in the present specification on page 2, lines 8-10, the method of JP '706 does not describe a concrete correlation between the concentration of fluorine resin solution and pulling speed. Thus, JP '706 does not suggest that its method of coating a plate would readily be transferable to coating an optical fiber to have an antireflection film formed on the end surface.

Moreover, claim 7 has been amended to recite that the optical fiber has a structure which results from a number of method steps, which method steps are recited in allowable claim 3. JP '706 does not suggest such structure as recited in claim 7.

New claim 17 is directed to an optical fiber where the optical fiber has a structure which results from a number of method steps, which method steps are recited in allowable claim 6. Claim 17 is likewise believed to be allowable.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or

even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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